the development of historical place of "Dandi Namak Satyagraha' in South Gujarat as a tourist spot;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount earmarked for the project and the time limit for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations including the State of Gujarat. However, Ministry of Tourism from 10th Five Year Plan is extending financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them every year under the schemes for Product/ Infrastructure Development of Circuits/Destination and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating projects.

On the basis of project proposals submitted by the State Government and appraisal as per guidelines, the following projects have been sanctioned for development of Dandi:

(a) Destination development of Dandi Rs. 380.27 lakh

(b) Rural Tourism Project of Dandi Rs. 50.00 lakh

Execution and implementation of the projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism is the responsibility of the State Government of Gujarat.

However, Ministry of Tourism regularly monitors the progress of projects through review meetings held from time to time.

Development of Orchards to Encourage Tourism

2394. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to make remote villages and minor and medium towns to be made tourist attractions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are giving thrust on tourism in the outskirts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether orchards are being developed near highways to encourage tourism; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Tourism has been working towards development and promotion of identified rural sites having potential for tourism. The projects for tourism infrastructure development and capacity building are sanctioned based on the proposals received from the State Governments for such identified sites. The objective is to showcase rural life, art, culture and heritage at rural locations and in villages, which have core-competency in terms of culture/craft/handlooms/textile etc.

(e) and (f) There is no such proposal with Ministry of Tourism.

Promotion of tourism in Himachal Pradesh

2395. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount sanctioned to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for the promotion of tourism during the last three years;

(b) the details of amount sanctioned for renovation/beautification of Durga Hatkoti Mandir for the period 2006-07;

(c) whether Government would consider inclusion of Durga Hatkoti Mandir on National Tourism Map so that more tourists can be attracted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The details of amount sanctioned to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for the promotion of tourism during the last three years is as under-